done because of the subsidy given to the books. The idea behind this is, these books should be accessible to eVen those students whose purchasing power is low. Therefore, we cannot afford to give the best paper but, certainly, we will try to improve, within the limits.

†**श्री शरीफ-उद-दीन शरीक :** सभापति महोदय, हाल ही में एक स्कैण्डल पकड़ा गया है कि एन0सी0आर0टी0 की किताबों की नकल उतार कर लोग लाखों-करोड़ों किताबें बाजार में लाए हैं । मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछना चाहता हूं कि कहीं इसमें एन0सी0ई0आर0टी0 के कर्मचारियों का हाथ तो नहीं है?

डा0 मुरली मनोहर जोशी : ऐसी कोई शिकायत अभी तक हमारे ध्यान में नहीं लाई गई है । यदि सम्मानीय सदस्य के पास ऐसी कोई सूचना आई है तो हम अवश्य उसकी जांच करेंगे।

**669. [The questioner (Shri BachaniLekhraj) was absent. For Answer Vide page 37 infra]*

Pollution in Yamuna River

*670. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI CM. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has rapped the Delhi Government for not being able to control pollution in the Yamuna River;

(b) whether Comptroller and Auditor General's report for the year ending March, 1999, too has come down heavily on Government for haphazard handling of the problem;

(c) whether out of 2852 Million liters per day (MLD) sewage generation in the capital, only 866 MLD "is treated and 1966 MLD of sewage is discharged into the river, causing serious pollution; and

(d) if so, what action Government are taking to resolve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI TR. BAALU): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) According to a study conducted by the Water and Power Consultancy

†Transliteration of the Speech in Persion Script is available in the Hindi version of the Debates.

Services (India) Limited in April 1999, the quantity of sewage generated in Delhi was estimated at 2720 million liters per day out of which about 950 million litres per day was treated and the remaining 1770 million litres per day was discharged untreated into Yamuna river.

(d) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Action Plan is Rs. 509.45 crore. Under this Plan, works have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns in Haryana, besides Delhi. The works include construction of sewage treatment plants, intercepting sewers, crematoria, low cost toilets, bathing ghats, plantation and public participation. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 417.63 crore has been incurred on the action plan. In addition to two sewage treatment plants constructed under the Yamuna Action Plan in Delhi, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has taken up a plan to construct another 14 sewage treatment plants out of their own plan budget to increase the sewage treatment capacity from the present 1200 million litres per day to 2300 million litres per day. Out of these, 7 have already been completed and 6 are in advanced stages of completion and will be completed by March, 2001. Tenders for the remaining one sewage treatment plant have been invited. The shortfall in the present generation of sewage and the proposed capacity of sewage treatment in Delhi is mainly due to the present policy of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi not to provide sewerage system in the unauthorized colonies and slums. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have also decided to undertake complete rehabilitation of the sewerage system so that all the surface drains presently discharging waste water into the river are intercepted and diverted for treatment to sewage treatment plants. A minimum flow of 10 cubic metres per second of fresh water is desired in the river against which all the riparian States except Delhi have started releasing their share. As a measure to tackle industrial pollution, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has decided to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants in 21 industrial estates of Delhi which are under implementation. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has also issued closure orders to 2616 identified water polluting units.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 2720 million liters of sewage, generated in Delhi alone, is dumped into the Yamuna river everyday. The Yamuna river originated from UP and enters Delhi, after passing through

a few hundred kilometers of area, where almost 5 billion liters of sewage is dumped into the river. As for Delhi, the present capacity of the sewage treatment plants is only one-fifth. Only one-fifth of the total sewage generated in Delhi is treated. The Government, in its reply, has stated that various steps are being taken. The Supreme Court had to intervene and even pass some sort of strictures against the Delhi Government. Even yesterday, a fine was imposed on the Delhi Government for dumping sewage into the Yamuna river. The CAG, in his report, has also referred to the fact that no action or haphazard action is being taken by the Government on this matter of serious concern. The entire Yamuna river ....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put the question. It is already mentioned in the question.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Okay, Sir. My question is: what concrete steps the Government intends to take in this regard? Unless the regional towns' DM are penalised or held responsible, this problem is not going to be solved. I would like to know, is there any such action plan that the DMs of these 20 towns, through which the Yamuna river passes before entering Delhi, will be held responsible for not taking appropriate steps? That is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question ^...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please put the second question later on.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Okay, Sir.

SHRIT.R. BAALU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all we should understand the main problem. Sir, the main problem is, there are 21 clusters of industries for which the Delhi Government is trying to set up 15 common effluent treatment plants, (CETPs). For that very purpose, the NCT of Delhi and the State Government extend 25% subsidy. The Central Government has already extended Rs. 2.25 crores as 25% subsidy. Thirty per cent subsidy is given by financial institutions, at a reduced rate of interest, and the balance 20% subsidy, is given by the industrialists. Sir, these effluent treatment plants are being constructed, —in fact, there are 16 sewerage treatment plants treating domestic effluents—and they are in various stages of progress. The construction of these plants will be completed very soon. At the same time, I would like to say that the sewerage system, which is existing in Delhi, has got certain parameters, and within these parameters, the effluents should be treated. We are trying to increase the capacity so that the effluents can be treated properly. Here, the industries are discharging effluents into the sewerages, and that

causes the problem. Now, the Yamuna, which is to have 3 mgm. per litre of BOD, has got 35 mgms. of BOD...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Sir, he is taking away my time.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: It is a burning issue in Delhi. The people are very much worried about this situation. My request is, we should neither blame the Delhi Administration nor should we blame the Central Government. This is not correct. It is a common cause. Both the Central Government and the State Government have to tackle this issue. We should not point a finger at anybody saying this administration is too bad or that administration is too good. I am not for that. We have to make a concerted effort to see to it that the effluents are treated properly. We are extending subsidies, and the State Government is also extending subsidies. The work on the CETPs are in various stages of progress. We have to tackle the issue properly. I would like to inform the House that there are major drains which are discharging impurities into the Yamuna. This should be tackled. I can give the names of some of them which are discharging more than 35 mgms. of BOD into the Yamuna River. These are Najafgarh drain, Sen's Nursing Home, Sarita Vihar, Kesopur, Kolaji, etc. Sir, there is a mandatory stipulation that all the riparian States discharge a minimum flow of 10 cubic metres per second of fresh water into the river. This is not forthcoming. We have to make a concerted effort to tackle the issue.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Sir, we understand the problem. But what I would like to know from the hon. Minister is whether the Government intends to hold the local D.M. responsible for not taking due steps. If it is not so, why is the Government not intending to do that? Once the sewerage is dumped into the river, you can't do anything. But you will have to see to it that it does not happen at all. Two thousand six hundred and sixteen units were ordered to be closed down. But nothing has happened. You go and see what the situation is in the River Yamuna.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Both the hon. Member and the hon. Minister are going beyond the real question. That is the main thing. When the Member is also elaborating and the Minister is also elaborating, the House cannot get anything.

श्री सी.एम. इब्राहीम : बीच मे मैं मारा गया ।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, Let him put the Question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has put his question. His question is, whether the D.M. in the respective areas would be held responsible. That is the question he has put twice; even thrice.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, it is not a question of punishing anybody. I have mentioned that there is no question of punishing anybody. We have to make a concerted effort and tackle the problem.

SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Sir, I will put the last supplementary since my name is there. What is the time-bound programme that the Government has fixed in order to complete this project? Secondly, are the State Governments involved in this? Thirdly, unless and until you have some permanent remedy in the matter of slum- dwellings, this problem will continue.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I have already interacted with the officials. After the session is over, I will take up the matter very seriously. We have a group of Ministers to tackle this issue. We are at it. There is no need to panic in this situation. We will tackle it as soon as possible.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, we should take this up in the next session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Statement by Minister correcting answer to question. Shri Bachi Singh Rawat.

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Sir, I have a point of order. Yesterday,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you on a point of order on which we are dealing with now?

DR. RAJA RAMANNA: Sir, yesterday, the Question hour was not taken up. You have said that Question Hour can be stopped only when there is a war. There was no war yesterday, but there was no Question Hour. How can the Question Hour be stopped? I do not know about the war, but the Question Hour should not be stopped at any cost. People should go out if they want to and fight, but not here. This is the point of order that I want to raise before you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a point of order. You are reiterating what this House had unanimously decided on the 15th of August at the time of the Golden Jubilee Session and if members are doing this, the parties have

to think among themselves and come to a conclusion. It is not left to the Chairman.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU': Sir, there was a war against the people yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Doubling of Mangalapuram-Shoranur Rail Line

*664. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in doubling of the rail line from Mangalapuram to Shoranur; and

(b) by when the work would be completed at the present rate of progress?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) The position is as under.

The following sections have already been opened for passenger traffic from the dates shown against each:

1.	Calicut-West Hill	07.09.97
2.	WestHill-Elathur	12.09.97
3.	Quilandi-Tikkotti	13.08.97
4.	Ullal-Netravathy	25.11.98
5.	Kasargod-Kumbla-Uppala	17.5.99
6.	Payyangadi-Payanur-Cheruvathur	05.03.2000

Work is at an advanced stage on the following sections and they are expected to be commissioned during the year 2000-2001: *i.* Elathur-Quilandi

2. Tikkotti-badagara
3. Badagara-Mahe-Tellicherry
4. Tellicherry-Ettakkot
5. Ettakkot-Cannanore-South-Cannanore